

Huey-Ming Tzeng, PhD, RN, FAAN
Professor and Associate Director of Nursing, Department of Nursing
School of Health Professions and Studies
University of Michigan-Flint

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Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Education Committee. My name is Dr. Huey-Ming Tzeng, a professor and associate director of the Nursing Department at the University of Michigan-Flint. I am here today to testify in opposition to House Bill 4496, which is currently before this committee.

The State of Michigan's four-year nursing programs must teach students to apply research-based knowledge as a basis for practice. Research-based practice is the key for high quality nursing care. The majority of the nursing faculty teaching in our state universities hold a doctoral degree. They are active in scholarly activities and are well equipped to teach research as well as to help nursing students to learn how to integrate research into their practice. Our state universities also hire outstanding nursing practitioners to teach clinical courses. Continuing to allocate the limited education resources to current state four-year nursing programs will maximize the value of nursing education, which will lead to better overall health for Michigan residents.

What does this mean? At the four year BSN degree level, having received national accreditation is vitally important for students who then want to pursue a graduate or doctoral degree in nursing. Without it, students will not be able to enroll in a post-Bachelor degree program. It would be a disservice to the students entering programs in which they cannot move up the educational ladder.

Do we need more state four-year nursing programs in Michigan? The answer should be based on the negative impact of Bill 4496 on patient safety and nursing care quality. This legislation **does not**, and **would not**, create more nurses. A student in an RN to BSN completion program is ALREADY a nurse who is working to improve their educational attainment level. This legislation would just create duplication within the system, drive up costs for students attending community colleges in a time when we should be lowering the costs for students to enter post-secondary institutions.

What is really needed here is the ability for all of the current nursing programs to hire more doctoral prepared faculty in order to increase our capacity to train nurses to

deliver research-based practice. The clinical placement for specialty nursing courses is already limited for the current nursing programs. And state four-year nursing programs, like the University of Michigan-Flint Nursing, have been working closely with community colleges, such as Lansing Community College and Mott Community College, to make sure that we have the right clinical placements for all of us to deliver high quality nursing education.

Our current Fall 2011 enrollment in the nursing programs at the University of Michigan-Flint include:

Pre-Nursing students:	544
Basic/Traditional 3-year BSN students:	255
Accelerated 16-month BSN students:	55
RN to BSN completion students:	427
Master's and Doctorate Nursing students (MSN & DNP):	141

Total: (not including pre-nursing student):	848
(Including pre-nursing students):	1,392

And we have numerous articulation agreements in place with nine community colleges to accept transfer credits from students to attend the University of Michigan-Flint RN to BSN completion program. These colleges include:

- St. Clair County Community College
- Wayne County Community College
- Lansing Community College
- Delta College
- Jackson Community College
- Macomb Community College
- Mott Community College
- Oakland Community College
- Washtenaw Community College

The three main ones are:

- St. Clair County Community College
- Wayne County Community College
- Lansing Community College

The University of Michigan-Flint, as previous witnesses have testified today, stands ready to work with Community Colleges to offer the five academic programs as outlined in House Bill 4496 on their campuses. Our Chancellor, Dr. Ruth Person, in a letter mailed to you last fall, once again reinforced the message of collaboration instead of

duplication. Now is not the time to spend limited financial resources on duplication of programs.

At a time when the Legislature is encouraging local K-12 school districts and local units of government to enter into shared service arrangements, tying revenue sharing and foundation grants to efficiencies, why would the Legislature also pass a bill, like House Bill 4496, that would create duplication of programs and inefficiencies in the post-secondary system? That doesn't make sense. We already have an efficient system in place to work together with community colleges for the benefit of our students. That should be encouraged instead of allowing for mission creep.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

